

Application No. 10/761,868
Supplemental Amendment dated February 23, 2005
Reply to Office Communication of December 23, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 11-17 and 25-30 are pending in the application. Claims 25-30 are withdrawn from consideration. The Examiner indicated that the Amendment filed on December 6, 2004, in response to the Office Action of August 6, 2004, presented only claims drawn to a non-elected invention, and therefore was non-responsive. Applicants have amended Claims 11-17 to be drawn to the elected invention of a plate adapted for use in a heat and mass transfer process.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 11-17 are patentable for at least the reasons advanced previously in the Amendment dated December 6, 2004. Specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that U.S. Patent No. 5,707,517 (hereinafter "Rolchigo et al. '517") does not disclose or suggest a plate which is substantially vertically oriented, as called for in amended Claim 11. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 11 and 12 are patentable for at least the reasons advanced previously with respect to U.S. Patent No. 1,561,044 (hereinafter "Alexander '044"). Specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that Alexander '044 does not disclose or suggest a plate having a plurality of ribs and a plurality of ligaments, the ribs being thicker than the ligaments, as called for in Claim 11.

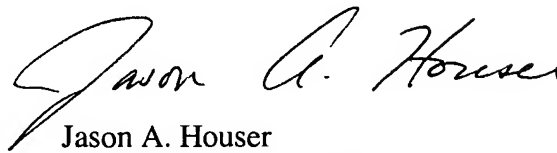
It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Official Action and reconsideration is requested.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time or payment of fee, Applicants hereby petition therefor and authorize that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 02-0385, BAKER & DANIELS.

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If any questions concerning this application should arise, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 260/424-8000.

Respectfully submitted,



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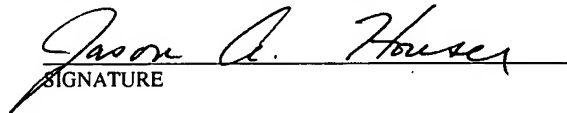
JAS/pas
Enclosure(s):
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NAME OF REGISTERED REPRESENTATIVE


SIGNATURE

February 23, 2005
DATE